

*"To Preserve The Flame"*  
**SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH**

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

Msgr. Tinsley Center at Ascension Campus: 774-243-6351

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. John Madden  
frjohnmadden@gmail.com

**Assisting Priests**

Fr. Charles Armev  
Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice  
Fr. James Mazzone  
Fr. Conrad Pecevich

**Deacon**

Van Nguyen

**Coordinators of  
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

**Director, After-School Program  
and Ascension Clothing Center**

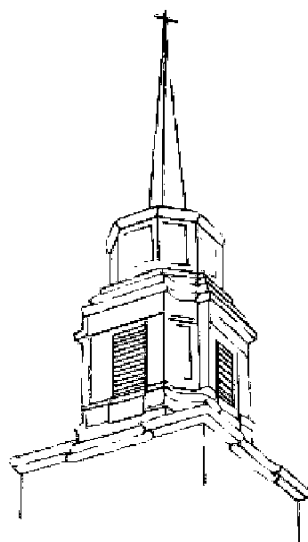
Sr. Patricia Murphy, SSJ

**Music Ministry**

Sean Redrow, Director  
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst. Dir.

**Rectory Office Hours:**

Tues.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm  
Jimmy Archibald, Manager  
stjohnsworc@gmail.com



**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Lord's Day Masses**

Saturday Vigil: 4:15 & 7:15 pm

Sunday: 8 am, 10:15 am,  
12:15 pm & 7:15 pm

**Weekdays**

Monday-Friday 6:15 pm

**SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Mi 5:1-4a

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-45

Worship Hymnal #1012

**Parish Website**

www.stjohnsworcester.org  
www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Mon.-Thurs.. 6:45 pm

Saturday- 3 pm

**Holy Days**

Vigil 6:15 p.m.

Holy Day 12:15, 6:15 p.m.

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Please contact the parish office at  
least one year prior to planned date  
of marriage

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Please contact the rectory for  
an appointment

**Sacrament of the Sick**

Please contact the parish office for  
a priest

**Monthly Mass for Healing  
Followed by the Celebration  
Of the**

**Sacrament of the Sick**

4th Tuesday of the month  
6:15 pm

## Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 22, 2018

4:15 PM **Eleanor Prevoski**, req. by Family; **Mary and Joseph Paskavitz, Rose and Frank Allelunas, Anthony and Adele Dailida**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Coin**, req. by Family;  
**Victor Rivera**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 23, 2018

8:00 AM **Al Johnson, Sr.**, req. by Family; **Edith Boudas (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
10:15 AM **Adele Zemaitis**, req. by Granddaughter Danute Miner; **Patricia Gaudette**, req. by a Friend  
12:15 PM **Milton Joseph Pepin**, req. by Wife Helen and Family; **Vincent Richardson (25th Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Mae O'Brien (10th Anniv.)**, req. by Family;  
**Rose and Joseph Pezzella, Michael Lewis**, req. by Family

Monday, December 24, 2018—Christmas Eve

4:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**  
10:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**

Tuesday, December 25, 2018—Christmas Day

8:00 AM **For the People of St. John's**  
10:15 AM **For the People of St. John's**  
12:15 PM **For the People of St. John's**

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

6:15 PM **Joseph and Benedicta Myefsky**, req. by Family;  
**Birthday Remembrance for Ruth Shepard and Sr. Mary Ellen Comiskey**

Thursday, December 27, 2018

6:15 PM **Vanda Bazikas**, req. by Joanna Dabrila

Friday, December 28, 2018

6:15 PM **Deacon Paul Dacri**, req. by Friends

Saturday, December 29, 2018

4:15 PM **Fr. Jim Walsh, Nicholas Walsh**, req. by Family;  
**Carmella Luca and Richard Burgio**, req. by Family  
7:15 PM **Joe Hickey**, req. by Family

Sunday, December 30, 2018

8:00 AM **Cheri Robinson**, req. by a Friend; **Edith Anna Brignoca**, req. by her grandson, Joey  
10:15 AM **John F. Healy (Birthday Remembrance)**, req. by Sister; **Paul Barry (5th Anniv.)**, req. by Family  
12:15 PM **Vanda Bazikas**, req. by Danute Miner  
7:15 PM **Christopher and Dante Folino (1st Anniv.)**, req. by a Friend

The Rosary is prayed each weekday **beginning with the Angelus at 5:50 p.m.**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem stands as an ancient witness to the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally constructed in 327 A.D. over a cave venerated as the birthplace of Jesus, most of the original church was destroyed in a sixth century Samaritan revolt. Rebuilt in 565, the second church still stands today.

Through the centuries, the Church of the Nativity has been battered by time and weather. It has suffered fires, earthquakes, desecrations and even gun battles. The interior, too, suffers neglect as squabbles among Armenian, Greek and Catholic caretakers have delayed needed renovations to the roof, walls and paintings.

For some on the outside, the Church of the Nativity, battered, fortress-like and unattractive to the eye, is disappointing. Even to some on the inside, the neglect is disheartening.

But then, descending a staircase to the cave below, one sees on the floor a silver star and the words, "Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary." Those words and that realization give one profound pause. Here, on this very spot, salvation came, hope was born. Here, Mary laid God's Son in a manger. To this very place, angels directed shepherds who hastened and worshiped. In this very place, like Mary and Joseph, pilgrims for centuries knelt in awe and wonder. From this spot, they have returned home, closer to God, renewed in faith, convinced anew of the great love of God who created us and draws us on. Realizing all that, pilgrims are glad that they did not let the visible defects deter them from entering the Church and staying in it to reach the sacred spot.

In some ways, the Church of the Nativity might be a metaphor for today's Church. Scandals, desecration, and the neglect of some priests and bishops in past years have caused tremendous suffering and sullied the image of the Church. Looking around from outside, some don't want to enter. Being discouraged on the inside, others have left. This, too, is tragic because it is only in the heart of the Church in the liturgy, sacraments, communion of the saints, the Scriptures and Tradition authentically handed on that one can regularly encounter the ordinary means of God's saving graces. Our world, our society and culture need those graces. We must continue to remain vigilant in order to protect our children but we must also never forget the treasures that have been entrusted to the Church and offered to us in the sacraments. The same Jesus, born at Bethlehem, and laid in the manger by Mary comes to us to nourish our souls, to bring us His love, healing and peace. Like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi, may that encounter give you and your loved ones joy and peace on Christmas and each week at Mass.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS**

Introit: *Gaudete in Domino*, Phil 4: 4, 5

Op.: # 392 On Jordan's Bank

Ps: Is. 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6 "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel."

Alleluia: # 208

Prep.: # 390 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Eucharistic Accs.: # 304, 305, 311

Comm.: *Dicite, Pusillanimes*, Is. 35: 4

# 405 Creator of the Stars of Night

Cl.: # 387 O Come, Divine Messiah!

### **CHRISTMAS HYMNS**

Introit: *Dominus dixit*, Ps. 2, 7

Or *Puer Natus est nobis*, Is. 9, 6; Ps. 97

Opening: # 426 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Gloria: # 206

Ps.: Announced at the beginning of Mass

Gospel Acc.: # 208 'Alleluia'

Prep.: # 417 Angels We Have Heard on High

Eucharistic Accs.: # 353, 356, 355, 311

Communion: *In splendoribus*, Ps. 109, 3

Or. *Viderunt omnes*, Ps. 97, 3cd

# 413 Silent Night

Closing: # 414 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

### **ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S**

**January 2**— Social Activities Committee, 7 PM in the rectory

**January 8**— Bible Study, 7 PM in the rectory.

**January 18**— Centering Prayer Group, 7 PM in the rectory.

**January 28**— Catholic Book Club, 7 PM in the rectory. The selection is "Dagger John: Archbishop John Hughes and the Making of Irish America" by John Loughery.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Monday, December 24- Vigil Mass

4:15 PM

10:15 PM Schola Cantorum

Christmas Day Masses

8:00 AM

10:15 AM

12:15 PM Parish Choir

\*There is no 7:15 PM Mass on Christmas\*

### **NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

Monday, January 31— 6:15 PM

Tuesday, January 1— 12:15 and 6:15 PM

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Grades 1-6**— Sunday, January 6, 9-10 AM in the Church Hall.

**Grades 7-9**— Sunday, January 6, 11:15AM -12:15 PM in the church hall.

**Confirmation (grade 10)**- Sunday, January 6, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in the Xavier Center.

**THE ST. JOHN'S LITHUANIAN CHOIR** will be singing several Traditional Lithuanian Christmas Hymns before the 10:15 AM Mass on Christmas morning. We will also sing Silent Night in both Languages during the Mass and end with a Lithuanian song. The Mass will be in English with English hymns, so please feel free to join in and sing what you know.

**THE CLOTHING CENTER** at the Ascension Campus will be closed for Christmas Break. The center will reopen on January 3rd. Any donations may be dropped off at the St. John's rectory in the meantime. Thank you.

**LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS WAFERS** are available in the sacristy after mass for a donation. Thank you.

**THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will be meeting on Wednesday January 9, 2019 in the lower chapel at 9:30-11:00 AM. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you need a shawl for anyone, please call Connie at 508-755-5172.

**THANK YOU**- The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who purchased the Christmas Ornaments and Magnets. The profit from the sale of these items help to defray the committees cost of their various events.

**INTERFAITH CHOIR CONCERT IN E. BROOKFIELD**- An interfaith choir Christmas Concert entitled "Everlasting Light" will be held at St. John the Baptist Church on Sunday, January 6 at 2 pm. Come and enjoy this outstanding music and grandeur of this Cantata experience, complete with the story of Christ, the Everlasting Light.

## In Our Catholic Community...

**A MASS FOR HEALING** will be held this Tuesday, January 22 at 6:15 PM. After the Mass the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered. Anyone seeking the healing touch of God's love and mercy is welcome.

**BUS TRIP TO GETTYSBURG-** Come join Father Walter Riley from Immaculate Conception Church on a bus trip May 13 to 17, 2019 to Gettysburg, PA; Emmitsburg, MD; and Harper's Ferry WV where 3 states and 2 rivers (Potomac & Shenandoah) meet in a beautiful area of the U.S. The trip will be historical and religious as we visit Gettysburg, the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Grotto, and Harper's Ferry. Cost is \$850 and includes motor coach bus for 5 days and 4 nights, hotel, 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, tour guides and entrance fees. Registration & further information please visit [www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com) or email Michele at [mmdeignan@charter.net](mailto:mmdeignan@charter.net). Registration closes March 1, 2019.

**REDUCED-FEE LEGAL SERVICES IN WORCESTER** - The Worcester County Bar Association has a Reduced Fee Program where household income exceeds the requirements for free legal assistance but makes hiring an attorney unfeasible. You must be a Worcester County resident and legal services include bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosures, wills, divorces, custody and evictions. Call 800-622-9700 800-622-9700 for more information, indicating your interest in the Reduced Fee Program.

## Financial Report

Last weekend we received \$11,282.83. We have also received:  
Monthly- \$55.00 Restoration- \$230.00  
Candles- \$241.00 Stipends- \$360.00  
Donation- \$1100.00 Christmas Flowers- \$145.00  
IMO Deacon Paul- \$50.00 Christmas Wafers- \$89.00

**Total-** \$13,552.83 **Unrestricted-** \$13,322.83 **Restricted-**\$230.00

**FOOD FOR THE POOR:** \$100 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$474.50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$1,000 from a friend; \$20 from a friend; \$200 from a friend; \$50 from a friend; \$25 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$100 IMO Harold Sacks; \$25 IMO Robert Tucker; \$100 IMO Deacon Paul Pizzarella; \$150 IMO Karen Burke; \$100 IMO Robert Henry; \$100 IMO Philip Shea; \$165 IMO Paul Powers; \$300 IMO Paul Thomas; \$100 IMO Brian Forts; \$25 Imo Andrew Stencil; \$100 IMO Jim McDonald; \$100 IMO Ginny Waitonis; \$25 IMO Dori Houston; \$62 IMO Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Coin; \$5,000 from Country Bank; \$100 IMO Robert Moynagh; \$100 IMO Robert Connors; \$50 IMO Thomas and Elizabeth Salmon; \$50 IMO Ralph and Eileen Woodward; \$2500 IMO Stanley Choinski

**Expenses-** \$22,066.72

Funerals (705.60) Schola (1072.08) Administration (7013.37) Altar (194.40) Rectory Phone/Cable/Internet (591.79) House (1059.27) Federal Payroll Taxes (1033.08) Church Locks (124.00) Rectory Electric (1146.44) Office (256.73) Repair and Maintenance (76.96) CYC Basketball (1200.00) December Budget Bill (7593.00)

**Food for the Poor:**

Income- \$ 17,475.00 Expenses- \$3658.22

## Our Parish Community...

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Penny Marshall and Michael Rahim who have been born into eternal life.

...Welcomes Harrison Archer Brand who has entered the Catholic Community through the waters of Baptism.

## Word of Life

**“Mary did not cry, ‘I cannot, I am not worthy,’ nor ‘I have not the strength.’ She did not submit with gritted teeth, raging, coerced. Bravest of all humans, consent illumined her. The room filled with its light, the lily glowed in it, and the iridescent wings. Consent, courage unparalleled, opened her utterly.” –Denise Levertov**